

## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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## March 2012

## IMPORTANT LEGAL NOTICE REGARDING UNIVERSAL PRODUCT CODES FOR TOBACCO PRODUCT MANUFACTURERS

TPM Certifications due after March 1, 2012 now require the TPM to identify the 12 or 13 digit Universal Product Code that appears on the <u>carton</u> of each brand style of cigarettes the TPM either currently manufactures or previously manufactured but which may still be offered for sale in Massachusetts.

For 2012 Annual Certifications <u>only</u>, the Commonwealth will email each TPM an Excel spreadsheet containing the current list that TPM's brand styles known to the Commonwealth to be sold in Massachusetts. TPMs must review the listed brand styles and UPCs and make any additions or changes necessary and submit the revised spreadsheet either by email or on CD-ROM to the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Revenue in conjunction with the Annual Certification. To ensure that leading zeros are preserved in the UPC, be sure to format the spreadsheet as "Text." For future Certifications, whether Annual or Supplemental, the TPM must maintain the Excel spreadsheet and submit it with any relevant changes.

BE ADVISED: Cigarettes cannot be stamped for sale in Massachusetts unless their UPCs have been submitted.